

health support through education, advocacy, and awareness. Steel Smiling has an ambitious goal, to connect every Black person in Pittsburgh to a positive mental health experience that improves their quality of life by the year 2030.

Julius's empathy and vision is encouraging and inspiring, and I look forward to witnessing the transformative impact of his work. Steel Smiling has already begun to improve the mental well-being of Pittsburgh's Black community. Since 2019, the organization has been a significant provider of community services, helping Black Pittsburghers to receive mental health treatment, training, and support.

The implementation of culturally sensitive programs, trainings, and workshops have helped combat the cultural stigma that exists in Black and Brown communities surrounding mental health.

The need for sensitive, stigma-free mental health support has been a longstanding one, but there has been a long gap between the need for services and the availability of them.

Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic has even more starkly illustrated the critical need for behavioral health services, especially for people of color. So I am grateful to Julius for not just recognizing the need but for stepping up and working to address critical community need.

(Ms. SMITH assumed the chair.)

TRIBUTE TO THEO BRADY

Madam President, finally, Theo Brady, our fourth honoree.

Theo is from Harrisburg, PA, and he is the personification of resilience in the face of adversity, and I am honored to recognize him today.

At the age of 15, Theo was involved in an accident while playing high school football, and the resulting neck injury left him paralyzed and a wheelchair user. This life-changing experience would become a catalyst for his future work in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

After his accident, Theo moved to Pennsylvania and completed high school. He furthered his education by graduating from Edinboro University in Erie County, and then he earned his master's degree in social work from Temple University in 1988.

Later that year, Theo Brady established and became the founding director of the Center for Independent Living of Central Pennsylvania, a position he held for over 30 years. As CEO, Theo was instrumental in creating an independent living center that would become a strong and vibrant voice for people with disabilities in central Pennsylvania and, indeed, throughout the Commonwealth.

Under Theo's leadership, the Center for Independent Living of Central Pennsylvania not only provided essential services for people with disabilities but has also advocated for accessible transportation, more access to assistive technology, and expanded home- and community-based services.

Theo crafted his leadership role to both create services for people with disabilities and to advocate to improve the lives of people with disabilities.

In addition to his work leading the center, Theo has served on numerous boards and committees over his career, influencing disability policy.

He was appointed by three different Governors of Pennsylvania to serve as a commissioner for the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission. Theo also served on the Pennsylvania State-wide Independent Living Council.

He has taken his years of service and advocacy to the classroom to help shape the disability leaders of the future, teaching at several institutions of higher education. For example, in 2019, after leading the Center for Independent Living of Central Pennsylvania for those 30 years, Theo retired to begin his next venture. Today, Theo serves as president of his own consulting firm.

I have had the opportunity to work with Theo on a number of disability issues over the years, and his professional and personal knowledge about the importance of home- and community-based services has been invaluable in shaping meaningful policy and communicating it to Members of Congress.

For over 40 years, Theo has proudly and inclusively served the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania with his advocacy for people with disabilities. We are grateful for his commitment to making our State and our Nation fairer and more accessible for all.

In conclusion, it is a privilege and a pleasure to be able to honor these remarkable Pennsylvanians: Ty Holmes, Della Clark, Julius Boatwright, and Theo Brady. While their work as repairers of the breach varies from community activism and youth development to economic development, to mental health support, to the civil rights of people with disabilities, all four share a commitment to lifting up their neighbors and their neighborhoods. They believe that we are stronger when we stand together and that, by joining hands with our brothers and sisters, we can overcome adversity, build resilience, and flourish together.

As we head toward the light at the end of the tunnel of this pandemic and continue to strive to ensure the ideals of our Nation are fulfilled for all Americans, the stories of these exceptional leaders will continue to inspire all of us to pursue a brighter tomorrow for America.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

UKRAINE

Mr. PORTMAN. Madam President, I come to the floor tonight with my colleague from New Hampshire, Senator JEANNE SHAHEEN, to discuss the critical situation in Ukraine.

Ukraine is an independent country. It is a democracy. It is an ally of ours. It is a country that is currently under siege. There is a threat of invasion by Russia that grows every single day.

Right now, there are more than 130,000 Russian troops under the command of 100 tactical groups surrounding Ukraine. This Russian deployment includes nuclear-capable missiles, rockets, tanks, and artillery, and it is no longer just on the eastern border of Ukraine, where there has been activity before, as we will discuss, but now on the northern border, where Russian combat troops and heavy equipment have moved into the country of Belarus and also in Crimea. Additionally, Russia has now deployed amphibious assault ships and other ships into the Black Sea, to the south, and has positioned its S-400 missile defense systems, which could stop flights into Ukraine.

So from the east, from the north, and from the south, Ukraine is facing this threat. News accounts say additional equipment is actually being moved to the Ukrainian border, not being pulled away.

While there are differing views on whether Russia has made the final decision as to whether to invade or not, there is no question that they have now amassed the capability needed to conduct a full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

Let's not forget that Russia has invaded Ukraine twice in the past 8 years, illegally annexing Crimea and inserting troops and offensive military equipment into the Donbas region in the east.

They have also targeted cyber attacks against public and private entities in Ukraine and continue to use information to try to destabilize the democratically elected Government of Ukraine.

By the way, Ukrainians have lost about 14,000 citizens in the last 5 years at the hands of the Russians—14,000—fathers, brothers. That would be, as a percentage of our population, like the United States losing about 115,000 people. That is more than we lost in Vietnam and Korea combined—actually, Vietnam, Korea, Iraq, and Afghanistan combined. Think how we would feel.

And let's not forget that Russia continues, day by day, to conduct this low-grade but serious war against Ukraine.

We all hope that instead of an invasion, Russia chooses a diplomatic end to this current crisis, but we had better treat this threat of an invasion as a very real and serious possibility. Doing anything else would be irresponsible, given the massive mobilization and the past malign behavior.

And all freedom-loving countries have an interest here. Ukraine is where the cause of freedom is under siege today in our generation.

Eight years ago, Ukrainians made a very deliberate choice. They stood up to a corrupt Russian-backed government, and they turned to the West, to the European Union, to America. They said that they wanted to be like us.

I was in Ukraine in 2014 shortly after what is called the "Euromaidan," the revolution of dignity. The barricades